(d) Central excise duty on PP granules being raw material is 35 per cent. Finished products produced out of PP granules attract different rates of import duty with a maximum rate of 85 per cent.

(e) and (f) No misuse of notification No. 32/93-Cus. has so far come to notice.

Appointment of SC/ST Candidates in Regional Rurlal Banks

909. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have exempted Regional Rural Banks from giving appointment to candidates selected by BSRB under special recruitment drive for filling up SC/ST reservation banking in those banks;

(b) if not, on what basis Tungabahandra Gramin Bank Bellary (Karnataka) did not issue appointment letters to such candidates for the last two years in respect of Officers cadres; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill up backlog of SC/ST vacancies in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) No, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had advised in 1990 all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), including Tunghabhadra Gramin Bank, to conduct a Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates to fill-up the backlog vacancies.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foregoing World Bank Loans

910. CHAWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to forgo One bill on dollars project loans from World Bank which were already approved and sanctioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) and (b) joint review was recently conducted with the World Bank to identify potential savings arising mainly out of exchange rate adjustments, as well as unutilised commitments on non-performing project components. While protecting the physical parameters identified in the various project agreements, an amount equivalent to US $ 1234.4 million has been identified for cancellation. This would also enable the provision of new assistance, as well as the redeployment of soft IDA assistance to strengthen investment in the social sectors.

Norms for Banks

911. SHRI SURESH PACHAURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to adopt more rigorous norms and restrict its capital contributions to viable and profit making public sector banks from the next financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the norms likely to be adopted in regard to loss making and weaker banks; and